



For Release: Friday, July 14, 2017

17-986-SAN

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Consumer Price Index, Portland – First Half 2017

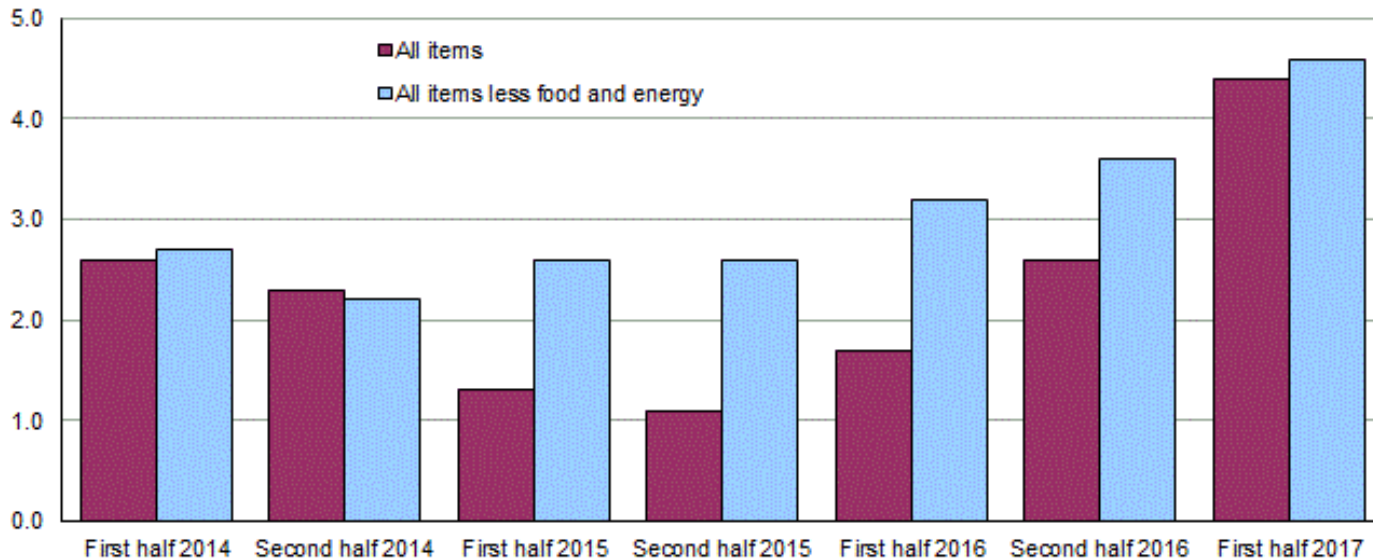
Area prices were up 2.5 percent over the past six months, up 4.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Portland Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 2.5 percent in the first half of 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 4.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 10.5 percent, largely the result of a jump in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 4.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Portland, first half 2014–first half 2017

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.0 percent in the first half of 2017. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home advanced 2.9 percent, but prices for food at home decreased 0.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.1 percent. Prices for food away from home moved up 4.2 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home moved down 1.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 4.3 percent since the second half of 2016. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (7.7 percent). Electricity prices increased 0.6 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 1.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 10.5 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (19.0 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 2.4 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 2.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy moved up 2.7 percent in the latest six-month period. Higher prices for shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (3.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-1.9 percent) and apparel (-1.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 4.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (8.2 percent) and to a lesser extent medical care (2.4 percent) and recreation (2.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in education and communication (-1.4 percent) and apparel (-1.3 percent).

Table A. Portland CPI-U semi-annual and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	1.2	2.5	1.3	2.2	1.0	2.6	0.1	1.3	0.7	1.7	2.5	4.4
Second Half	0.9	2.1	1.5	2.8	1.2	2.3	1.0	1.1	1.8	2.6		

The Second Half 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Portland-Salem, OR is scheduled to be released in mid-January 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be discontinued. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Portland-Salem, OR, WA metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon and Clark County in the State of Washington.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Portland-Salem, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2017 from-	
	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016	1st half 2017	1st half 2016	2nd half 2016
Expenditure category					
All items.....	247.143	251.710	258.055	4.4	2.5
All items (1967=100)	723.531	736.903	755.477	-	-
Food and beverages	232.297	232.822	235.531	1.4	1.2
Food	234.485	234.769	237.074	1.1	1.0
Food at home	217.569	215.919	214.855	-1.2	-0.5
Food away from home.....	261.834	265.226	272.942	4.2	2.9
Alcoholic beverages	210.728	213.679	220.467	4.6	3.2
Housing	254.357	262.228	271.955	6.9	3.7
Shelter	301.740	312.818	326.375	8.2	4.3
Rent of primary residence	302.277	314.295	327.628	8.4	4.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)	314.407	325.023	339.175	7.9	4.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1) ..	314.407	325.023	339.175	7.9	4.4
Fuels and utilities.....	257.600	262.894	265.703	3.1	1.1
Household energy	202.297	204.951	205.832	1.7	0.4
Energy services.....	248.908	251.943	252.429	1.4	0.2
Electricity	294.026	299.251	301.129	2.4	0.6
Utility (piped) gas service	156.704	155.421	153.186	-2.2	-1.4
Household furnishings and operations	105.882	105.048	106.024	0.1	0.9
Apparel	126.307	126.708	124.727	-1.3	-1.6
Transportation	213.566	219.120	228.257	6.9	4.2
Private transportation	214.429	223.478	230.249	7.4	3.0
Motor fuel	195.237	215.924	232.403	19.0	7.6
Gasoline (all types).....	197.111	217.892	234.579	19.0	7.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(2).....	193.746	214.414	230.677	19.1	7.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(2)(3).....	170.250	188.367	203.476	19.5	8.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(2).....	188.269	207.417	224.017	19.0	8.0
Medical care	536.015	531.392	548.762	2.4	3.3
Recreation(4).....	107.822	109.339	110.304	2.3	0.9
Education and communication(4).....	114.347	114.882	112.746	-1.4	-1.9
Other goods and services	467.414	474.017	474.724	1.6	0.1
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	247.143	251.710	258.055	4.4	2.5
Commodities	174.372	175.305	177.202	1.6	1.1
Commodities less food & beverages.....	146.300	147.438	148.940	1.8	1.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	178.594	181.847	184.607	3.4	1.5
Durables	111.463	110.644	110.948	-0.5	0.3
Services.....	320.472	328.749	339.628	6.0	3.3
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	234.220	239.088	244.967	4.6	2.5
All items less shelter.....	226.027	227.889	231.246	2.3	1.5
Commodities less food	148.582	149.794	151.517	2.0	1.2
Nondurables	204.134	205.991	208.704	2.2	1.3
Nondurables less food.....	180.026	183.230	186.310	3.5	1.7
Services less rent of shelter(1).....	349.313	353.409	360.250	3.1	1.9
Services less medical care services.....	305.090	313.836	324.034	6.2	3.2
Energy	198.429	210.410	219.359	10.5	4.3
All items less energy	254.398	258.442	264.668	4.0	2.4
All items less food and energy	260.086	264.916	271.976	4.6	2.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes(1) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.
(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- Data not available.